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SOURCE

The attached report on recruitment for the Soviet Zone paramilitary police is sent to you for retention in the belief that it may be of interest to you. It is suggested that the report be regarded with reserve, since the number of unknown factors and the margin of error are both so large that the conclusions are of little value.

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Soviet Zone of Germany

Bereitschaftspolizei Recruitments

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1 - typed list

The figures shown in Annex have been gathered from reports published in the March 1949 issue of the magazine Statistische Praxis (Practical statistics) and in the Berliner Statistik (Berlin Statistical Records) of 1947)

1. The Soviet Zone Bereitschaftspolizei obtains its recruits from volunteers. Of course, pressure is applied to induce qualified men to volunteer for service with the police, and those who refuse are reproached for sabotaging the peaceful democratic reconstruction work or threatened with losing their jobs and being sent to the uranium mines.
2. Although compulsory military service has not been instituted, all those subject to the draft are being registered and their military aptitudes, previous military training, etc., are being recorded. This registration is being carried out by the labor offices which are gradually developing into police recruiting offices but are maintaining a civilian cover for this activity. Thus the lengthy organizational preparations which have to be taken prior to the establishment of universal military service have been completed to a considerable extent by the labor offices. At the same time, the Bereitschaftspolizei is conducting a series of short courses to train the instructors necessary if a draft were instituted.
3. In the event that compulsory military or police service should be decreed in the Soviet Zone of Germany, the draftees presumably will be inducted not into the Landespolizei but into

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the Bereitschaftspolizei. Apart from slight modifications, the Landespolizei will probably maintain its present strength of about 85,000.

4. A calculation of the strength of the Bereitschaftspolizei after the introduction of compulsory service may be based on the following facts:
- Ninety percent of the approximately 60,000 men presently serving with the Bereitschaftspolizei belong to the 1926 to 1932 classes.
 - If the approximately 60,000 police were deducted, then a 14.6 percent reduction would be made in the 410,000 men of the 1926 to 1932 classes subject to a peacetime draft.**
 - If the assumption is made that each of the 1926 to 1932 classes has an equal share in the present strength of the Bereitschaftspolizei, the numbers subject to the draft in the various classes would be reduced as follows:

1932	from 67,400	to approximately 57,600
1931	from 66,900	to approximately 57,100
1930	from 71,400	to approximately 61,000
1929	from 69,250	to approximately 59,100
1928	from 61,800	to approximately 52,700
1927	from 42,250	to approximately 36,100
1926	from 31,500	to approximately 26,900. **
5. Of course accurate calculation of the strength of the Bereitschaftspolizei is impossible until the stipulations of any future draft law are known. However, if the law originally prescribes a one-year term of service for the 1931 and 1932 classes, then it may be assumed that in the beginning the Bereitschaftspolizei will have a minimum strength of approximately 175,000 men.

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- * Comment. See Column 10 of the Annex.
- ** Comment. This calculation contains the following sources of error:
- The estimated 10 percent of the Bereitschaftspolizei who were born before 1926 were not taken into account;

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- b. Limited additional inductions into the Landespolizei were also not taken into consideration;
- c. Not each of the classes from 1932 to 1926 has an equal share in the total of 60,000 Bereitschaftspolizei, for the younger age groups have proportionately larger numbers in the police.

For lack of reliable figures these possible errors must be accepted as unavoidable. However, they reduce the value of the entire calculation to a working hypothesis.

1 Annex: Table of Classes in the Soviet Zone of Germany

Table of Classes in the Soviet Zone of Germany

Year	Soviet Zone without Berlin 1946	Soviet Sector of Berlin 1946	Total for 1946	Decrease since 1946	Strength in 1950	Number of those fit for service with the police	Deferments for the economy		Available for service with the police in 1950	Mobilization strength
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1952	129,000	7,000	136,000	1,200	134,800	121,000	67,400	12,100 (10%)	67,400	108,900
1951	128,000	7,000	135,000	1,200	133,800	120,000	66,900	12,000 (10%)	66,900	108,000
1950	137,000	7,000	144,000	1,270	142,730	128,000	71,400	12,800 (10%)	71,400	115,200
1949	134,000	8,000	140,000	1,500	138,500	124,660	69,250	12,500 (10%)	69,250	112,160
1948	120,000	5,000	125,000	1,480	123,520	111,200	61,800	11,120 (10%)	61,800	100,000
1947	82,000	4,000	86,000	1,800	84,200	75,000	42,250	11,400 (15%)	42,250	64,600
1946	60,000	4,000	64,000	950	63,050	56,750	31,500	8,500 (15%)	31,500	48,250
									410,500	657,100

Note: Returned PWs are not included in these figures